

Corridor 37-232

Coyote Springs

Introduction

Corridor 37-232 extends south-north along U.S. Highway 93 to the east of the Desert National Wildlife Range. The corridor begins at the junction of Corridors 37-223 (N) and 37-39, near the southeast corner of the Desert National Wildlife Range and Nellis Air Force Base, and ends at the junction of Corridors 232-233(E) and (W). Federally-designated portions of this corridor are entirely on BLM-administered land, with a 3,500-ft width from Mileposts (MP) 0 to 12.0, a 2,640-ft width from MP 12.0 to 35.5, and variable width from MP 35.5 to 49.7. The extent north of MP 12.0 was designated in a resource management plan prior to Section 368 designation. Corridor 37-232 is designated as a multi-modal corridor that can accommodate both electrical transmission and pipeline projects. The corridor spans a 49.7-mile distance, with 49.7 designated centerline miles. The designated area is 17,476 acres/278.3 square miles. This corridor is in Clark and Lincoln Counties in Nevada. BLM jurisdictions include the Las Vegas and Caliente Field Offices (FOs) in Nevada. This corridor is primarily in Priority Region 1 (Las Vegas FO), but extends into Priority Region 3 between MP 39.8 and 49.7 (Caliente FO).

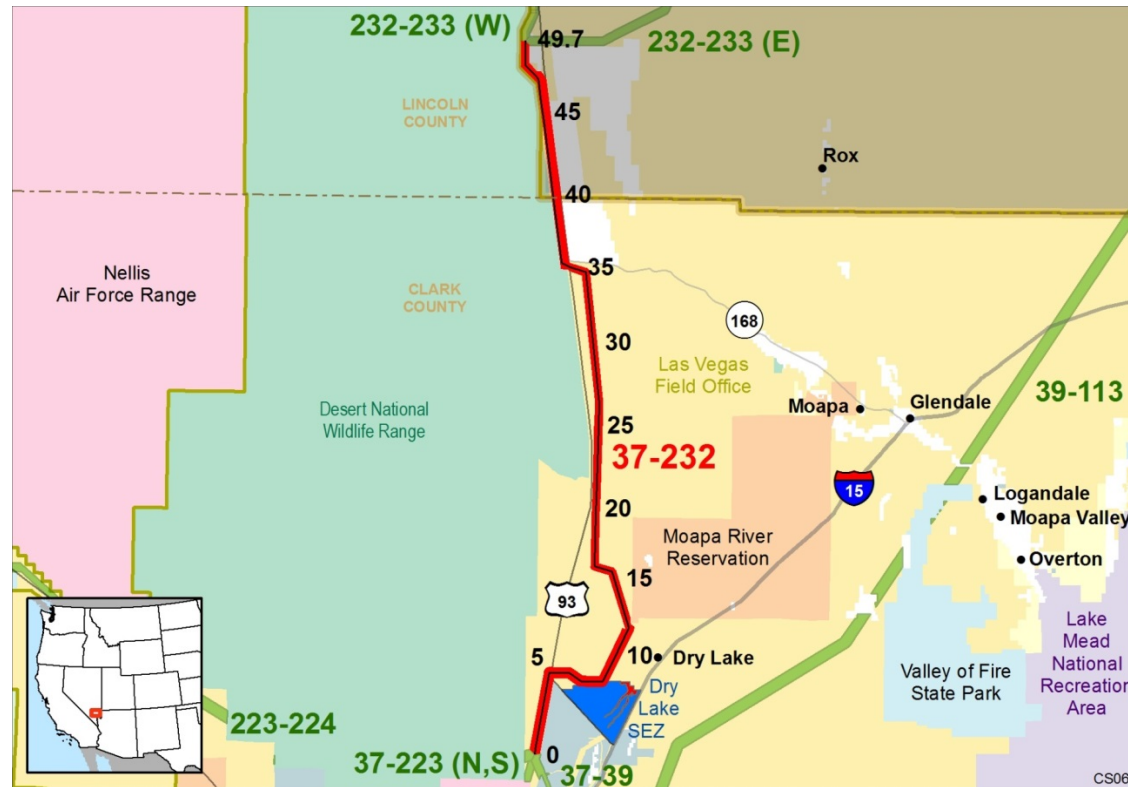


Figure 1. Corridor 37 232(Key for Figures 1-2 can be found on the last page of the abstract)

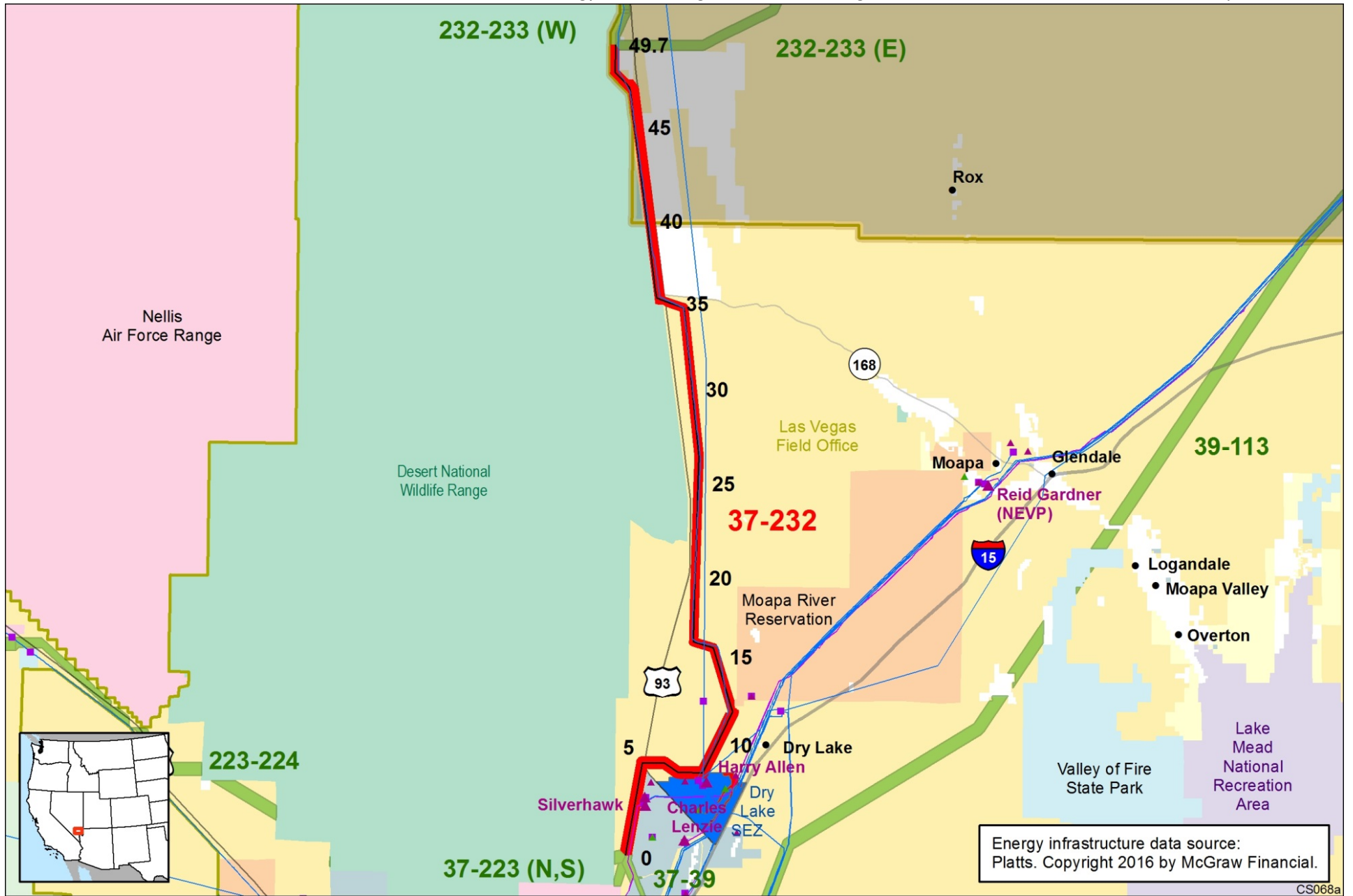


Figure 2. Corridor 37-232, including existing energy infrastructure

Corridor Rationale

During scoping for the West-wide Energy Corridor Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (WVEC PEIS), routes generally following this corridor were suggested by the American Wind Energy Association, Maximus USA, National Grid, the Rocky Mountain Area Transmission Study, Western interconnection Transmission Paths, and the Western Utility Group. A small portion of the corridor is occupied by two Kern River Gas Transmission Company natural gas pipelines from MP 0.0 to 2.8, and much of the corridor follows two Tucson Electric Power Company 500-kV transmission lines extending from Midpoint, ID to Las Vegas, NV. Also occupying parts of the corridor are two Sierra Pacific Power Company and one Nevada Power Company 69-kV transmission lines. During interviews for the Corridor Study the Southern Nevada District Office indicated there are two pending rights-of-way (ROWs) for this corridor. Platts data show a planned Renewable Energy Transmission Initiative 1000-kV DC line following the majority of the corridor and a conceptual Inland Line 500-kV project generally following the corridor route. Seven power plants (5 natural gas and 2 solar) are near the south end of the corridor from MP 0.0 to 8.7.

Corridor of Concern Status

This corridor was not identified in the Settlement Agreement as a Corridor of Concern.

Corridor Analysis

Energy Planning Opportunities

- Appropriate and acceptable uses
- WVEC Purpose (e.g., renewable energy)
- Transmission and pipeline capacity opportunity

Energy Planning Concerns and Opportunities

- Physical barrier
- Jurisdictional concern
- Corridor alignment and spacing

- Transmission and pipeline capacity concern

Land Management Responsibilities and Environmental Concerns

- Acoustics
- Air quality
- Climate change
- Cultural resources
- Ecological resources
- Environmental Justice
- Hydrological resources
- Lands and Realty

- Lands with wilderness characteristics
- Livestock Grazing
- Paleontology
- Public Access and Recreation
- Socioeconomics
- Soils/erosion
- Specially designated areas
- Tribal concerns
- Visual resources
- Wild horses and burros
- Interagency Operating Procedures**

ID	Agency	Agency Jurisdiction	County	Primary Concern/ Opportunity	Length of Affected Corridor (by Milepost [MP])	Source/Context	BLM/FS Review and Analysis
ENERGY PLANNING OPPORTUNITIES							
Appropriate and Acceptable Uses							
37-232 .001	BLM	Las Vegas FO, NV	Clark, NV	Dry Lake Solar Energy Zone	MP 5.8 to 9.0	GIS Analysis/ The Dry Lake Solar Energy Zone overlaps and is adjacent to the corridor	Opportunity
ENERGY PLANNING CONCERNS							
Location-Specific Physical Barrier							
37-232 .002	BLM	Las Vegas FO, NV	Clark, NV	Several transmission lines and one pipeline	MP 2.6 to 4.2	GIS Analysis/Several transmission lines and one pipeline occupy or cross the corridor, limiting the potential for additional projects	Pending input from industry and stakeholders. BLM administration of the corridor includes efficient use of space (i.e., colocation) and adherence to IOPs.
37-232 .003	BLM	Las Vegas FO, NV	Clark, NV	Multiple transmission lines	MP 8.0 to 9.2	GIS Analysis/Multiple transmission lines occupy and cross the corridor, limiting the potential for additional projects	Pending input from industry and stakeholders. BLM administration of the corridor includes efficient use of space (i.e., colocation) and adherence to IOPs.
Jurisdictional Concern							
37-232 .004	BLM	Caliente FO and Las Vegas FO, NV	Clark and Lincoln, NV	Existing infrastructure, Desert National Wildlife Range, private land	MP 35.8 to 49.7	GIS Analysis/The corridor occupies a narrow strip of BLM-administered land between Desert National Wildlife Range and private land, and is occupied by two projects	Pending input from industry and stakeholders. BLM administration of the corridor includes efficient use of space (i.e., colocation) and adherence to IOPs.
Corridor Alignment and Spacing							
37-232 .005	BLM	Las Vegas FO, NV	Clark, NV	Transmission line	MP 11.7 to 15.6	GIS Analysis/Transmission line crosses from one side of the corridor to the other, limiting the potential for additional projects	Pending input from industry and stakeholders. BLM administration of the corridor includes efficient use of space (i.e., colocation) and adherence to IOPs.
37-232 .006	BLM	Las Vegas FO, NV	Clark, NV	Two transmission lines	MP 35.1 to 36.2	GIS Analysis/Two transmission lines cross each other, and from one side of the corridor to the other, limiting the potential for additional projects.	Pending input from industry and stakeholders. BLM administration of the corridor includes efficient use of space (i.e., colocation) and adherence to IOPs.

ID	Agency	Agency Jurisdiction	County	Primary Concern/ Opportunity	Length of Affected Corridor (by Milepost [MP])	Source/Context	BLM/FS Review and Analysis
LAND MANAGEMENT RESPONSIBILITIES AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS							
Ecology: Special Status Animal Species							
37-232 .007	BLM	Caliente FO, Las Vegas FO	Clark and Lincoln, NV	Desert tortoise critical habitat	MP 0.0 to 47.7	GIS Analysis	Not a constraint; impacts to connectivity habitat can be mitigated and minimized through consultation with the USFWS.
37-232 .008				Tortoise Conservation Areas (TCAs)		RFI/Re-route to avoid siting new facilities in Tortoise Conservation Areas (TCAs) without existing transmission and minimize additional transmission siting in TCAs.	Not a constraint; impacts to connectivity habitat can be mitigated and minimized through consultation with the USFWS.
37-232 .009	BLM	Caliente FO, Las Vegas FO	Clark and Lincoln, NV	Priority 1 & 2 Connectivity Habitat	Entire corridor	RFI/Re-route to avoid siting new facilities in Priority 1 & 2 Connectivity Habitat without existing transmission, and minimize additional transmission siting in these areas.	Not a constraint; impacts to connectivity habitat can be mitigated and minimized through consultation with the USFWS.
Lands and Realty: Transportation							
37-232 .010	BLM	Caliente FO, Las Vegas FO	Clark and Lincoln, NV	U.S. Highway 93	MP 5.1, 20.3 to 24.2, 34.4 to 47.1	GIS Analysis/U.S. Highway 93 runs adjacent to and intersects the corridor	Not a constraint; coordination with the Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT) and adherence to IOPs required.
Specially Designated Areas							
37-232 .011	BLM	Caliente FO, Las Vegas FO	Clark and Lincoln, NV	Special management areas	See below	Corridor Study/The corridor intersects and is adjacent to various special management areas	Not a constraint. This is one of four ACEC's within the BLM SNDO which is specifically designated to protect desert tortoise critical habitat. Except within designated corridors, the ACEC is managed as an avoidance area to linear rights-of- way, and as an exclusion area to site- type rights-of-way (except within one half mile of the center line of federal-aid highways). Site-type rights-of-way such as electrical substations, water treatment plant, construction staging areas may or may not be compatible with the use and future use of the corridor. Use

ID	Agency	Agency Jurisdiction	County	Primary Concern/ Opportunity	Length of Affected Corridor (by Milepost [MP])	Source/Context	BLM/FS Review and Analysis
							of IOPs, BMP's would be required to avoid incompatible uses within the corridor
37-232 .012	BLM	Las Vegas FO	Clark, NV	Coyote Springs ACEC	MP 0.0 to 6.5, 16.0 to 35.6	GIS Analysis	Corridor 37-232 traverses through one of four ACEC's within the BLM SNDO which is specifically designated to protect desert tortoise critical habitat. Corridor 37-232 traverses the ACEC for approximately 8 miles. Except within designated corridors, the ACEC is managed as an avoidance area to linear rights-of-way, and as an exclusion area to site-type rights-of-way (except within one half mile of the center line of federal-aid highways). Site-type rights-of-way such as electrical substations, water treatment plant, construction staging areas may or may not be compatible with the use and future use of the corridor. Use of IOPs, BMP's would be required to avoid incompatible uses within the corridor.
37-232 .013	BLM	Las Vegas FO	Clark, NV	Arrow Canyon Wilderness	MP 19.7 to 34.3	GIS Analysis/Corridor is adjacent to Arrow Canyon Wilderness	Not a constraint. Corridor is not located within the Wilderness Area.
37-232 .014	BLM	Caliente FO, Las Vegas FO	Clark and Lincoln, NV	Desert National Wildlife Range	MP 35.5 to 49.7	GIS Analysis	Not a constraint. Corridor not within DNWR.
Tribal Concerns							
37-232 .015	BLM	Las Vegas FO	Clark, NV	Moapa River Indian Reservation	MP 12.2 to 15.5	GIS Analysis/Corridor is adjacent to the Moapa River Indian Reservation	Not a constraint. Moapa River Indian Tribe will be consulted to minimize potential effects. Adherence to IOPs required.
Visual Resources							
37-232 .016	BLM	Las Vegas FO	Clark, NV	VRM Class III	MP 0.0 to 6.4, 16.2 to 39.9	GIS Analysis	Not a constraint. However, restrictions would be applied commensurate with designated VRM

ID	Agency	Agency Jurisdiction	County	Primary Concern/ Opportunity	Length of Affected Corridor (by Milepost [MP])	Source/Context	BLM/FS Review and Analysis
							class; development must be in conformance with VRM objectives outlined in BLM Manual 8400.
37-232 .017	BLM	Las Vegas FO	Clark, NV	VRM Class IV	MP 6.2 to 16.3	GIS Analysis	Not a constraint; meets VRM class IV.

Abbreviations: ACEC = Area of Critical Environmental Concern; BLM = Bureau of Land Management; BMP = Best Management Practice; BOR = Bureau of Reclamation; DNWR = Desert National Wildlife Range; ESA = Endangered Species Act; FO = Field Office; FS = Forest Service; GIS = geographic information system; IOP = Interagency Operating Procedure; MP = milepost; PEIS = Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement; RFI = Request for Information; SNDO = Southern Nevada District Office; TCA = Tortoise Conservation Area; USFWS = U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; VRM = Visual resource Management; WECC = Western Energy Coordinating Council; WVEC = West-wide Energy Corridor.

